communications set up with the various field formations under the CBEC, the old wireless sets/equipments are being replaced by state-of-the-art equipment. The existing communication network in Commissionerates of Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Mumbai, Pune, Cochin and West Bengal have been further beefed up by installing repeater stations, for longer range of VHF communications. Wireless network linking Bhubaneswar with Paradeep, Cuttack and Sambalpur has been provided to Bhubaneswar Commissionerate. VHF Stations have also been opened at these places for providing local communications within 15-20 kms. radius.

In addition to above, the coastal field formations under the CBEC have also been carrying out maritime and aerial surveillance in coordination with Coast Guard authorities.

The deployment of the anti-smuggling equipments in the field formations under the CBEC is reviewed by the Government from time to time, keeping in view the changing trend of smuggling and economic scenario.

Transfer of Narcotics Control Bureau

1015. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to transfer the Narcotics Control Bureau from the Ministry of Finance to the Ministry of Home, if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) the reasons for the Bureau not being placed directly under the control of Customs and Central Excise, as was, the case upto early 1990; and

(c) the details of the seizures of narcotics, variety-wise, by different enforcement agencies, during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) Sir, No such proposal is under consideration.

(b) In 1990, Narcotics Control Bureau was placed under the supervision and control of Secretary (Revenue) for effective and

smooth functioning of the Bureau. Since the existing system is working effectively and smoothly, no change in the present system is considered necessary.

(c) The details of seizures of narcotics, variety-wise, in kgs. as reported to the Bureau by different enforcement agencies during the last three years are as under:—

Drug	year		
	1997	1998	1999
Opium	3316	2031	1635
Morphine	128	19	36
Heroin	1332	655	861
Hashish	3281	10106	3391
Methaquaolone	1740	2257	474
Ganja	80886	68221	40113
Cocaine	24	1	1

Stringent Action against Loan Defaulters

1016. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently announced stringent action against those who are defaulters of bank loans;

(b) if so, the stipulated date fixed to recover either the bank loans or to take punitive action;

(c) whether Government propose to attach properties involved in default of bank loans; and

(d) if so, the names of big companies or individuals involved therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) Pursuant to a decision taken in the meeting with Chief Executives Officers of public sector banks, under the aegis of Indian Bank